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## DE safety officer honored with two command awards

by Rich Garcia, Directed Energy Directorate

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio – Two headquarters-level awards were presented in April to an Air Force Research Laboratory employee from Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

Michael D. Martin, a safety engineer with the laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate, was presented with the Air Force Materiel Command Patricia Terrell Memorial System Safety Award, and the Environmental Safety and Occupational Health Program Professional of the Year Award. The awards represent Martin's contributions to improving personnel and systems safety, and reducing the risk for personal injury.

Martin was cited, in part, for having completed several studies and surveys: one was a nine-month radon survey, and two were studies having to do with mold-contamination assessments in the workplace. He also conducted 17 ergonomic surveys that led to the installation of corrective equipment for employees, thus averting as estimated \$935,000 in potential worker compensation costs over the lifetime of each employee.

"The current average compensation claim in the Air Force for an ergonomic injury is \$55,000," noted Martin. He further saved the organization nearly \$8,000 a year by finding and using salvaged parts or inexpensive new parts to fix ergonomic problems.

By handling health and safety issues for the directorate's 40-person detachment in Maui, Hawaii, the laboratory avoided contracting that support, thus saving more than \$4,000 a year.

Additionally, Martin was cited for a safety plan that reviewed and recommended changes to a test program and the design of a chemical laser support system. In a separate matter, his recommendations helped resolve a safety issue that was in dispute between two other base organizations. He also helped train medical squadron workers to be able to spot experiment hazards.

Martin conducted an annual ground safety inspection of 111 laboratory areas in 48 industrial buildings. His efforts contributed to completing the year without any reportable ground mishaps.

A letter from the AFRL Vice Commander, Col. Michael L. DeLorenzo praised Martin, noting, "The success of the safety



**COMMAND HONORS** — Safety Engineer Michael D. Martin checks carbon monoxide levels on a boiler exhaust at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate. (Air Force photo)

program within the Directed Energy Directorate is a direct result of [Martin's] self-motivated efforts and proactive approach toward safety." @